

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that I missed rollcall vote 542 to H.R. 2764 taken on June 21, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "nay."

As an ardent supporter of the rights of the unborn, I am strongly opposed to this legislation, which weakens existing Federal policies and laws on abortion.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. ELIAS BLAKE, JR., FORMER PRESIDENT OF CLARK COLLEGE, ATLANTA, GA AND LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF JAZZ MUSIC, 1922-2007

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Dr. Elias Blake, Jr., former president of Clark College in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Blake was an impassioned advocate for education, social justice and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. His passing is a profound loss to the struggle for higher education in the African-American community.

Dr. Blake led Clark College from 1977 until 1987. During that decade, he developed and implemented a plan that resulted in placing the college on a sound financial path, major improvements in faculty training and curriculum, securing national accreditations for many academic programs, seeking out and retaining the best and brightest minds to enhance their academic and life skills, and enhancing science, mathematics and musical scholarships while making jazz music a signature experience at Clark College.

Madam Speaker, I cannot in this short time do justice to the life and achievements of Dr. Elias Blake, Jr.; however, it is fitting that as his final accomplishment he was working on a study of Brown v. Board of Education, the landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court that overturned segregation in our Nation's public schools.

A lifelong advocate for jazz music, Dr. Blake worked with such notables as Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach, Billy Taylor, and many others to encourage younger musicians in their musical pursuits. My heart goes out to the family of Elias Blake, Jr. and I want them to know that I appreciate the life and work of Dr. Blake and that he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Elias Blake, Jr. for his continuing dedication to the world's children as well as those children in our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Elias Blake, Jr., former president of Clark College.

REGARDING THE SCORE ASSOCIATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, America's small businesses are among the most vital elements of the Nation's economy. Small businesses employ 50 percent of the Nation's workforce, produce 97 percent of all exports and generate the majority of innovations that come from U.S. companies.

Many times, an entrepreneur's dreams become a nightmare because they lack the necessary training to plan and evaluate a business proposal or they lack the proper funding or skills to be successful. That is why Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize the work and committed public service of employees and volunteers of SCORE.

SCORE is a vital source of free and confidential advice for existing and emerging small businesses and has become a trusted and valued partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SCORE has 389 chapters nationwide staffed with 10,500 volunteers comprised of working and retired small business owners, successful corporate executives and military veterans and professionals. These experienced business counselors share their knowledge and experience with entrepreneurs in the strictest confidence and without conflicts of interest.

In the past year, SCORE conducted more than 300,000 counseling sessions and held nearly 7,000 workshops with more than 125,000 attendees. SCORE volunteers have devoted more than one million hours to helping America's small business owners and entrepreneurs.

SCORE volunteers deserve to be recognized for their commitment to public service and for their efforts to build strong communities and strong small businesses.

CONGRATULATING SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH OF WACO ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2007 the parishioners and community of Waco celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, a cornerstone of our Central Texas community.

Like many Spanish Franciscan churches in this great nation, Sacred Heart Parish had a very humble beginning. In 1946, the priests of St. Francis Church established three catechetical centers: Hernandez at 2306 Bagby Avenue, Gonzalez at 2224 James Street, and Rosas at 2313 Bagby Avenue. On June 30, 1957, in what became known as a very moving ceremony, the Most Reverend Louis J. Reicher, Bishop of Austin dedicated the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Several outstanding and dedicated priests have demonstrated their devotion and commitment to the growth and development of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church over the past

50 years, including Father Francisco Dols, Father Miguel Rigo, Reverend Anthony Ferrer, Father Gonzalo Ferrer, and presently Father Lawrence Soler.

Under the leadership of Father Lawrence Soler, the Sacred Heart Church has impacted the lives of many people. Father Soler, recognized for over 50 years in the priesthood, has a history of unselfish devotion to others, a legacy of personal achievement, as well as, an unwavering commitment to his faith.

The profound words of Father Lawrence, spoken during the 25th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, best describe the impressive past, as well as the bright future of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church: "From a few scattered families it has grown into a closely knit community of faith, pooling its talents, coordinating its efforts for more effectiveness, so that God may be glorified and mankind served. Our greatest strength in the future will be, as it was in the past, our Faith, our Hope, and our Love."

With this compelling mission of faith and the spiritual message of serving others to guide them, the people of Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Waco have touched countless lives. On this 50th anniversary, I rise to honor the moral leadership, dedication to community, and generous spirit of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and extend my warmest wishes for continued blessings in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW P. PATNAUDE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of SSgt Matthew P. Patnaude, 314th Civil Engineering Squadron, United States Air Force. SSgt Patnaude, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD, Technician, has been recognized by the Air Force Times as the 2007 Airman of the Year.

As an EOD Technician, SSgt Patnaude was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, to help protect our armed forces from various forms of enemy ordnance. During his time in Iraq SSgt Patnaude safeguarded over 16,000 coalition troops by executing 105 high-risk missions, neutralizing 45 IEDs, uncovering 9 weapons caches, and disposing of 40,000 pieces of enemy armaments. This exemplary service record alone is reason enough to recognize SSgt Patnaude, but his impressive resume stretches far beyond these black and white numbers.

While on a mission to neutralize a roadside bomb in Iraq, SSgt Patnaude was attacked by an enemy sniper. Although seriously injured by the sniper's bullet, he vectored his security team to the sniper's location, as well as kept the medic treating his wounds advised of the enemy's activities. The SSgt also exemplified courage under fire when wounded by an enemy IED during yet another high-risk mission. Always putting his team first, SSgt Patnaude checked on his chief, radioed security, and set up the area for medical personnel. As SSgt Patnaude's supervisor has previously stated: "his actions under fire are, simply put, heroic."